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LETTER DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request that the attached document be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pedro Comissario AFONSO
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Annex

Government position on United Nations Security Council resolution 863 (1993) of 13 September 1993

The Government of the Republic of Mozambique has the honour to present its position on resolution 863 (1993) of 13 September 1993 to the distinguished members of the Supervision and Control Commission, and through them to the international community, in the following terms.

The multiple questions raised by the resolution have been matters of concern to the Government for a considerable time. It has been making great efforts to resolve them, unfortunately without success. The Government is thus in total agreement with the appeals and recommendations contained in the resolution, and hopes that they will not yet again become a dead letter.

This resolution recalls the old Latin maxim "pacta sunt servanda" or "AGREEMENTS MUST BE FULFILLED". The importance of the General Peace Agreement (AGP), above all of its implementation, lies in the fact that it interprets and aims to satisfy or at least make viable the interests of the Mozambican people and State, namely socio-economic and cultural development. For this reason the Government identifies with and makes its own every effort towards fulfilling AGP, and highly appreciates all support received to this end.

The Government thus welcomes United Nations Security Council resolution 863 (1993), and salutes the international community that adopted it.

With regard to the content of the resolution, the Government would particularly like to restate its positions in relation to some vitally important questions:

1. The need to fulfil the provisions of the AGP, above all those relating to the cease-fire and troop movements (paragraph 2 of the resolution)

The Government remains convinced that the guarantee of success of the peace process, and in consequence of the establishment of a just and lasting peace in Mozambique, lies in the elimination of the subjective and objective factors of war that are still intact on the ground, and that not only serve as a constant threat to the peace that the country is currently essaying, but also make the whole process of pacification and democratization a hostage to weapons and to unstated objectives.

The most obvious manifestations of this serious and worrying situation are the continued training of men outside the framework of training the Mozambican Defence Force (FADM), and the troop movements that have been noted in various parts of the national territory.

The decisive process for eliminating such factors is the cantonment of all troops, in a process guided by the principle of simultaneity, though it may be begun and concretized by territorially delimited phases.

The Government reiterates its readiness to begin this process immediately, as already stated to this Supervision and Control Commission when Security Council resolution 850 (1993) of 9 July 1993 was under consideration, and repeated more recently by the President of the Republic.

2. On demobilization and the formation of the Mozambican Defence Force

Protocol IV.I.i.4 of the General Peace Agreement clearly establishes the principle that demobilization will take place simultaneously with the process of forming FADM, and will conclude when FADM has reached full strength. In this sense, the Government agrees with beginning demobilization as soon as the forces are in assembly points, and continuing it in the terms laid down in the General Peace Agreement.

For the Government, it is fundamental that when demobilization is completed there should already be an army in existence that can take on effective responsibility for the purposes set out in AGP itself, namely defending and safeguarding the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, protecting the civilian population against crime and all forms of violence in cooperation with the Police Command, intervening and helping in crises and emergencies arising from natural disasters, and supporting reconstruction and development efforts (Protocol IV.I.i.2).

These tasks belong to FADM, and nobody can carry them out in its place.

3. Consultative meeting between the Government and RENAMO and the other parties on the draft Electoral Law

The Government is in full agreement with the position taken by the Security Council on this matter. The total lack of progress in this meeting is due to the existence of forces that are determined to do everything possible to avoid holding elections in 1994. They are forces whose exclusive concern is to win power at any price, even when this signifies defrauding the Mozambican people of their right to self-determination. Going beyond a dismissal of the letter and spirit of what was agreed in Rome concerning the National Elections Commission, they reached the point of wanting to neutralize, handcuff and prevent the Government from assuming its responsibilities, including those relating to organization of the elections. They went as far as trying to transfer the debate of the draft from the appropriate forum in which it was taking place to this Supervision and Control Commission. When this attempt was rejected, they then tried to bring in the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) to replace the Government in the chair of the forum. It is these and other attempts, as well as a proliferation of delaying tactics, that have led to the current state of impasse.

The Government is aware that by blocking the discussion of the Draft Electoral Law in this way it is intended to limit or remove the right of Mozambican citizens to elect and be elected in the most free, just and transparent conditions, and to resolve the question of power by means of calculations that have no relation to the will expressed at the polling booths.

That is why the Government considers it imperative to bring this lamentable situation to an end, so that the elections may in fact be held in 1994.

4. On re-timetabling

An initial re-timetabling proposal submitted by ONUMOZ was carefully analysed by the Government, in the light of the General Peace Agreement. The in-depth observations that resulted were communicated to the Chairman of CSC in good time, and he was to continue working sessions with the parties until the new calendar to be formally approved in the Supervision and Control Commission was settled. The Government is still awaiting continuation of the discussion that had meanwhile been adjourned.

Once settled and approved, the timetable must be adhered to rigorously, with no further conditions or preconditions, as stated in the Security Council resolution.

The Government delegation to this Commission considers it useful and opportune to single out the above observations and comments.

Referring back to the appraisal we had occasion to make of Security Council resolution 850 (1993), we would like to register and welcome the evolution represented by the letter and spirit of the current resolution. In view of the difficulties and non-fulfilments that the process of implementing the General Peace Agreement is facing, there is a noteworthy effort to go beyond the indiscriminate distribution of responsibilities. We believe that it is only in this way, using just and objective criteria in its analysis and verdicts, that ONUMOZ will support the Mozambican peace process effectively, and only in this way will it gain respect and credibility, particularly among Mozambicans and in southern Africa.

The Government will continue to do all it can to support and facilitate the task of ONUMOZ.